

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER SPOKE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB
TODAY AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS AFTER HIS SPEECH.

2. THE Q & A'S REGARDING LATIN AMERICA ARE BEING FOR-
WARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

"THE CHAIRMAN: FOUR OR FIVE QUESTIONS ON CUBA.
THE FIRST ONE ASKS WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON SENATOR
SPARKMAN'S RECENT REMARKS ABOUT RESUMING US RELATIONS WITH
CUBA AND WHAT ARE THE CHANCES THAT US POLICY TOWARDS CUBA
WILL CHANGE THIS YEAR.

"SECRETARY KISSINGER: I'M BRAVE BUT NOT RECKLESS.
(LAUGHTER.)

"IN THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND
THE EXECUTIVE THAT I CALLED FOR RECENTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO
SAY THAT WE ARE EXAMINING OUR POLICY TOWARDS CUBA -- THAT
WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK AT VARIOUS OF THE MEASURES THAT
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HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WITH A VIEW

TOWARDS SEEING WHAT CAN BE DONE IN OUR CUBAN RELATIONSHIP.

"THE CHAIRMAN: DO YOU SEE ANY POSSIBILITY, MR. SECRETARY, OF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SELL

SOME GOODS TO CUBA IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO HELP US WITH OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS?

"SECRETARY KISSINGER: WHATEVER DECISION WILL BE MADE ON CUBA IS NOT GOING TO BE DICTATED BY ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS. IT WILL GROW OUT OF OUR ASSESSMENT, IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, AS WELL AS OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

"THE CHAIRMAN: BACK TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST REPORTED SOME CONCLUSIONS BY FORMER CHILEAN AMBASSADOR ORLANDO LETELIER, WHO ALLEGED THAT HE HAD BEEN DECEIVED ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT WITH THE OPPOSITION TO THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. IN RETROSPECT, SHOULD ANY OF THE CIA'S ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT, DO YOU REGRET THE OUTCOME?

"SECRETARY KISSINGER: I FOUND IT AMAZING THAT THE FRONT PAGE OF A LEADING NEWSPAPER WOULD REPORT A TOTALLY UNSUPPORTED STORY BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO, AFTER ALL, WAS NOT EXACTLY DISINTERESTED AND WHO TOLD A RATHER AMAZING TALE THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO THE HOUSE OF A WASHINGTON COLUMNIST TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM ME.

"NOW, IT WOULD BE AN INTERESTING QUESTION -- WHO EXACTLY PASSED THAT MESSAGE TO HIM THAT HE SHOULD COME TO THE HOUSE OF THAT COLUMNIST. THAT COLUMNIST DOES NOT REMEMBER SUCH AN INCIDENT; I DO NOT REMEMBER SUCH AN INCIDENT. AND WHILE OUR DENIAL WAS DULY REPORTED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE STORY, ONE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THAT FROM THE FRONT PAGE OF AN ARTICLE THAT CAN ONLY BE DESIGNED TO PROVE THAT I WAS TELLING A LIE FOR PURPOSES THAT ARE TOTALLY UNCLEAR BY A MAN WHO HAS A PROFOUND INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM. AND I MIGHT SAY I FIND IT PARTICULARLY PAINFUL BECAUSE I HAVE NOT BEEN UNINVOLVED
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IN HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON IN CHILE. (APPLAUSE.) " KISSINGER

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